



# Board of Livestock Meeting Minutes

March 9 & 10, 2009

DRAFT

**Monday, March 9, 2009**

**Department of Public Health & Human Services Auditorium**

**Board of Livestock Members Present:**

Stan Boone, cattle producer  
Jan French, chair, cattle producer  
Brett DeBruycker, cattle producer  
Linda Nielsen, cattle producer  
Ed Waldner, swine producer

**Staff:**

Marty Clark, assistant administrator, Brands Enforcement  
George Edwards, administrative specialist, Livestock Loss Mitigation & Prevention Program  
John Grainger, administrator, Brands Enforcement  
George Harris, administrator, Centralized Services  
Christian Mackay, executive officer  
Steve Merritt, public information officer  
Carol Olmstead, chief, Meat Inspection Bureau  
Monte Nick, chief, Milk Control Bureau  
Dr Jeanne Rankin, assistant state veterinarian, Animal Health Division  
Sherry Rust, administrative assistant, recorder  
Dr. Tahnee Szymanski, field veterinarian Animal Health Division  
Dan Turcotte, chief, Milk and Egg Bureau  
Dr Zaluski, state veterinarian/administrator Animal Health Division

**Guests:**

Peter Bogusko, Buffalo Field Campaign  
Tim Gill, Montana Livestock Ag Credit  
Kraig Glazier, USDA APHIS Wildlife Services  
Les Graham, Montana Livestock Auction Association, Montana Farm Bureau Federation  
Quentin Kujala, Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
Aerial Overstreet, Montana Stockgrowers Association  
Aeric Reiley, Montana Woolgrowers Association  
Stephany Seay, Buffalo Field Campaign  
Carolyn Sime, Fish, Wildlife & Parks

**Call to Order**

1:15 p.m.

**Board Communications:**

Brett DeBruycker

- Very cold up north, frozen waterers, heifers are done calving

Jan French

- Central Montana is also very cold, calving right now, its been tough, not much snow which helps with the calving
- Thank you to Bill Hedstrom for his 4 years as chairman and to Becky Weed for her two year term

- Both did a good job and their efforts are appreciated by the remaining board members and producers

Linda Nielsen

- Cold, and more cold around Nashua/Glasgow area
- Sales have been pretty good
- Bull sales start next week, prices were good at last one

Stan Boone

- Lot more snow over Ingomar way than there is here, ice, thawing & freezing
- First calf hit the ground yesterday
- Yesterday was 50 degrees, today is very cold

Ed Waldner

- 5 below with a nice Montana breeze in the Chester area

**Approval of Minutes:**

**Brett DeBruycker moved that the minutes of the January 12 & 13, 2009 meeting be approved as presented. Linda Nielsen seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

**Approval of Executive Officer Reports:**

**Linda Nielsen moved to approve the executive officer report as presented. Ed Waldner seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

**Approval of Chairman Interim Authorizations and Activities:**

Chairperson Jan French authorized the following out-of-state travel pending full board approval

- Dr Tahnee Szymanski and Sherry Rust to attend the National Institute for Animal Agriculture annual meeting in Louisville, Kentucky
  - The meeting March 31 through April 1, will address the changing face of animal agriculture
  - Interim approval was requested make travel arrangements at reasonable rates
  - Travel expenses paid from federal grant monies

**Brett DeBruycker moved to approve interim action as presented. Linda Nielsen seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

**Division Report:**

CENTRALIZED SERVICES, George Harris

Appropriations Update

- Calling for 7% vacancy savings in all agencies
- Looking at approximately \$400,000 in 2010 and \$700,000 in 2012 for brucellosis herd plan

Fiscal Notes

- Explained the purpose and process of fiscal notes-
- Showed how a designated bill might effect the department
- Can have fiscal and procedure impact

2009 Budget Status and Revenue Update

- Reviewed division and bureau budgets
- Updated State Special Revenue funding

Milk Control Bureau, Monte Nick

- Reviewed prices and charted production Meadow Gold vs. Country Classic
- Governor Schweitzer appointed Jerry Weisman, Great Falls, to the Milk Control Board
- Declining prices causing possible loss of two more producers

- Lower prices are the result of over supply with the industry is gearing up to sell off 300,000 dairy cattle to reduce supply

Livestock Loss Reduction & Mitigation Board, George Edwards

- Hilliard McDonald, former livestock representative on the LLRMB passed away last week
- LLRMB Board now needs a member nominated by the livestock industry
  - MCA dictates how nominees are appointed
  - Steve Merritt and George Edwards will do a press release soliciting nominees
  - requested nominees be submitted to Christian Mackay who will forward them to the Board of Livestock for decision on who to submit to the Governor
  - Steve Merritt and George Edwards will work on a press release requesting nominees
- HB90 to add llamas for reimbursement
  - formerly the law stated llama claims had to be for guard llamas only
  - this bill would include all llamas
  - original intent was loss of production and livelihood
- Funding
  - Out of funds and unable to pending pay claims
  - Defenders of Wildlife funds should be here soon

**Recess:** 2:43 p.m.

**Reconvene:** 3:00 p.m.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE, Christian Mackay

Provided a list of bills that the department have been interested in since the beginning of this session

- HB3-supplemental appropriation includes brucellosis action plan funding
  - Holding HB3 to see if they can back fill HB2 from stimulus money and see what is left for HB3
  - So far no talk of cutting back on the brucellosis plan
- HB253 Wild buffalo conservation – died in committee 8-10
- HB 418 Horse slaughter bill passed 66 – 23
- HB 482 State assistance for damage caused by brucellosis
  - passed 99 to 0
  - covering all costs not paid from USDA
  - Can not see how it can be applied
  - On its way now to appropriations
- HB548 Inspection for dog breeding facilities
  - Might be amended
  - May not get out of committee
- HB592-Animal identification
  - Supported by MCA , R-CALF
  - Opposed by Pork Producers, Stockgrowers, Woolgrowers
  - Would disallow participation in any federal mandated program but state would still have to enroll producers into the program

The board directed Christian to attend as informational source only

- HB638 - General Fund appropriation to transfer to a staggered brands renewal plan
  - in 1991 the law was passed, then repealed in 1995
  - legislative audit will do an audit and make a report to next rerecord
- SB 167-horse issue
  - humane issues are still under the authority of Sheriff Office
- SB213-FWP to manage wildlife disease

WILDLIFE SERVICES REPORT, Kraig Glazier

## Helicopter Issues

- WS has temporarily leased a helicopter to replace ours downed by FAA
- Lease is paid for by USDA
- Will do whatever to get the grounded helicopter up in the air again

## Wolf Delisting

- Carolyn Sime, Fish, Wildlife & Parks
  - Delisting wolves in Utah, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, and Montana, but not WY
  - Next step is to publish the decision in the Federal Register, 30 days thereafter will be effective
  - Montana wolf hunt will be set for the fall of 2009

Once wolves are delisted landowner can shoot wolves harassing or threatening person or livestock.

**Producer Organization Updates:**

## MONTANA WOOLGROWERS ASSOCIATION, Aeris Reilly

- Lost sheep representative on the board, sad to see Becky go
- Will make recommendations to the Governor

## MONTANA STOCKGROWERS ASSOCIATION, Ariel Overstreet

- Three months away from 125th anniversary to be held on June 10-13, 2009
- Everyone invited to Miles City for the celebration

AGENDA CHANGE

Christian Mackay requested an agenda change to move John Grainger to first on the Tuesday agenda to allow him to travel to another commitment. Other items to remain in the same time slots

**Open Microphone:**

Producer and guest opportunity to speak

**Election of vice-chair**

With the appointment of Jan French to chairperson by the Governor the vice-chair position is open. Christina Mackay requested nominations from the board.

**Stan Boone nominated Linda Nielson for the vacant vice-chair position. Ed Waldner seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

**Adjournment** 4:11p.m.

**Executive Session:**

Personal right to privacy exceeds public right to know.

**Tuesday, March 10, 2009****Department of Public Health & Human Services Auditorium****Board of Livestock Members Present:**

Stan Boone, cattle producer  
Jan French, chair, cattle producer  
Brett DeBruycker, cattle producer  
Linda Nielsen, vice-chair, cattle producer  
Ed Waldner, swine producer

**Staff:**

George Edwards, administrative specialist, Livestock Loss Mitigation & Prevention Program  
John Grainger, administrator, Brands Enforcement

George Harris, administrator, Centralized Services  
Christian Mackay, executive officer  
Steve Merritt, public information officer  
Carol Olmstead, chief, Meat Inspection Bureau  
Monte Nick, chief, Milk Control Bureau  
Dr Jeanne Rankin, assistant state veterinarian, Animal Health Division  
Sherry Rust, administrative assistant, recorder  
Dr. Tahnee Szymanski, field veterinarian Animal Health Division  
Dan Turcotte, chief, Milk and Egg Bureau  
Dr Zaluski, state veterinarian/administrator, Animal Health Division

**Guests:**

Peter Bogusko, Buffalo Field Campaign  
Ryan Clarke, USDA APHIS  
Kraig Glazier, USDA APHIS Wildlife Services  
Les Graham, Montana Livestock Auction Association, Montana Farm Bureau Federation  
Quentin Kujala, Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
Tom Linfield  
Aerial Overstreet, Montana Stockgrowers Association  
Aeric Reilly, Montana Woolgrowers Association  
Stephany Seay, Buffalo Field Campaign  
Carolyn Sime, Fish, Wildlife & Parks

**BRANDS ENFORCEMENT**, John Grainger

- Reported on an incident of tribal bison shot off the Fort Belknap Reservation, he is going up today to lend assistance and expertise of the department
- The merger of three positions that now handle animal health/brands issues this going well
- Regarding the staggered brand rerecord bill
  - Not sure if producers are for this
  - might be some issues on staffing and processing

**Division Reports:****ANIMAL HEALTH**, Dr. Zaluski**Brucellosis Action Plan**

- So far gone fairly well, funding is still pending but have held seven producer meetings with a total attendance of about 650 with FWP participation
- Nearly 300 risk surveys completed
- Producers are embracing this risk management and seeing the advantages of doing the risk testing
- Planning an informational campaign once the funding is there – media with Steve Merritt

**FADD course**

- Not attending because of another commitment

**2007 epidemiology trace reports**

- Final report should be complete with in a week
- Still on track for May application

**Miscellaneous Animal Health**

- Dr Susan Keller, North Dakota State Veterinarian has requested that Dr Zaluski travel to meet with the North Dakota Board of Health on the June 10, 2009
- Bison hunt was completed December 15 with one bison taken
- Western States Animal Health Meeting was attended by Dr Zaluski and Dr Rankin

- Phenomenal meeting – critical to establish contacts and updates on investigations in other states
- Dr Zaluski presented on the Brucellosis Action Plan
- Dr Rankin presented on the anthrax outbreak last summer

MEAT INSPECTION BUREAU, Carol Olmstead

- Attended joint meeting in Albuquerque with Meat Inspection Directors from 27 states
  - Supports these meetings, learned a great deal
  - Will once more in 2009
- Out-of-State Travel Request
  - Would like Ray Figgins to attend this year's FSIS regional meeting
  - Funding will be provided by USDA for one person per state

**Linda Nielsen moved to authorize Ray Figgins to attend using funding provided by FSIS. Ed Waldner seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

**Recess:** 9:21 a.m.

**Reconvene:** 9:44 p.m.

DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY, Dr. Bill Layton

- Out-of-state travel Requests
  1. Julie Armstrong from the milk lab
    - Needs to complete LEO training in Indianapolis (licensed evaluation)
    - Training is available in Indianapolis May 4 through 8
    - Cost is \$1,340 including air fair and lodging (funds available)

**Linda Nielsen moved to authorize the requested out-of-state travel as proposed. Brett DeBruycker seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

2. An American Hartland Continuing Education seminar is taking place April 24 and -25
  - Would like Steve Stokke, Sue Forester, and Kathy Prokop to attend
  - Estimated cost \$1,060 not including gas to drive over
  - Will be paid from the diagnostic lab continuing education funds

**Stan Boone moved to authorize the requested out-of-state travel as requested. Ed Waldner seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

- AAVLD Accreditation
  - Need a plan to address our long term building plan
  - SB14 is a stop gap measure with positive response from Fish, Wildlife & Parks and lukewarm response from Agriculture and Department of Public Health and Human Services
  - Asked for more direct input from the board in addressing the issue of a new building
  - Suggested the board come and see the facility and issues mentioned by AAVLD
- Management Review
  - Just starting the process
  - NAHLM guidelines have helped
  - Need attention to BL3 issues
    - Potential use of the new lab at MSU in case of animal disease event
    - Requires training which can be provided by MSU in the spring
    - Dr Layton recommends six people attend plus himself
  - Cost will be \$500 to \$700 per person with funding from the training budget

The board concurred with Dr. Layton's assessment and agreed that each board member will assume an area to study. Chairperson Jan French asked each board member to decide what area they are interested in to provide guidance in lab issues.

- Other Issues
  - Dr Maddox is retiring March 27
    - Recommends filling the position as soon as possible
    - Currently advertising for a histo-tech currently
    - Staff shortage is causing more stress on lab personnel

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE, Steve Merritt

- Excited about the department newsletter which is becoming a good tool for the dept
  - The participant list is growing
- Working on updating the department website
- Rabies continues to be an issue
  - Started doing a press release every time there is a quarantine

MILK & EGG, Dan Turcotte

- Out-of-State Travel request
  - Request permission to spend FDA grant money to send Rosemary Hickey to a farm inspection training course
  - Missouri, May 18 thru 22

**Brett DeBruycker moved to authorize the out-of-state travel as requested. Stan Boone seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

- Core Mark
  - Dual dating issue remains pretty static since the written agreement
  - The price of Montana milk is 30 days behind outside markets
  - Taking advantage to come in and pick up accounts due to that lag

TRANSFER OF CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE, Marty Falstad

- explained the issue regarding Montana Livestock Company
  - Ken Moe defaulted on the contract
  - The Eulands chose to take over the market
  - As the former owners, they are already approved for holding a certificate in the state of Montana so no hearing is necessary
  - The necessary paperwork is completed and they paid their license fee
  - Board approval is required to the transfer of Certificate of Public Convenience

**Stan Boone moved to approve the transfer. Ed Waldner seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

The board agreed to a review of market rules and an overview of that issue for the new board members and staff at the May meeting.

REQUEST FOR OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL, Christian Mackay

Christian Mackay requested authorization for Dr. Zaluski, Ernie McCaffery and himself to travel to Canada to review horse facilities at Fort McCleod, Alberta in conjunction with the horse facility in Shelby. Travel will be done by car at minimal expense.

**Bret DeBruycker moved to approve the request as presented. Linda Nielsen seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

OPEN MICROPHONE

Opportunity for the public to speak

SET NEXT MEETING DATE

- May 12 (Tuesday) and 13 (Wednesday), 2009. The board will meet with the Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission on Wednesday afternoon
- The July meeting was tentatively set for July 20 & 21, 2009 in Bozeman. The president of MSU will be invited to attend.

**Adjournment**            10:36 a.m.

Executive Session 10:45 personal privacy exceeds the public right to know.

---

JAN FRENCH, CHAIRMAN  
BOARD OF LIVESTOCK